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were classical names which had been applied to the plants by ancient authors. From Goodenough's spirited letter, emphatic in its expression of personal dislike of Salisbury as it is full of zeal for the honor of Grecian gods and goddesses, I must give a few passages. "I am glad now, as I have been at all times heretofore, to receive communications of your literary difficulties." (Sir James had been obliged to ask of him the gender of his proposed name *Blephara*.) "Much as I wish for peace and forbearance, and *condescension to men of low estate* [and in point of scholarship thus must I style Salisbury—of *very* low estate], I must hold up both my hands against allowing Salisbury to desecrate the name *Castalia*. To make the name of the nymph of the fountain where Apollo and all the Muses drank the purest lymph, serve for the denomination of a plant inhabiting foul, stagnating, fetid water, and that, too, in a *Flora Græca*, which is to preserve the memorial of all Grecian excellence in the natural world, will be an offense of the grossest sort: *Religio vetuit*. A bad name, Linnæus says, had better be retained than that a change should be made. But really there is reason in roasting of eggs. You cannot be bound down to a name that is execrable, and which must excite in all minds ideas of execration."

One can hardly fail to observe that, in the heat of feeling, the Bishop became a little inconsistent with himself; for in the beginning of his diatribe he holds *Castalia* a sacred name which Salisbury must not be allowed to desecrate, and concludes by pronouncing it execrable. But these are trivialities and do not gravely concern us. The principle now contended for along all popular lines of reform in nomenclature is this: that the oldest Linnæan or post-Linnæan names are those which genera must bear; and it is quite beyond all successful contradiction that *Castalia* of Salisbury is the oldest name, not pre-Linnæan, for the genus which men are still calling *Nymphæa*.

Note on the Color of *Caulophyllum thalictroides*.

Having seen Mr. Aug. F. Foerste's Morphological Note on *Caulophyllum thalictroides* in the July BULLETIN, I should like to call attention to the color of the plant as it grows on Mount Royal, Montreal. When it first comes up there in the spring, its

stem has a dark purple bloom, the bunches of leaves are dark green, with a suggestion of the same purple hue, and the flowers—opening before the leaves unfold—are a dark chocolate brown. On account of its coloring, I had some difficulty in identifying it, and for some time knew it only as “the black plant.” By that or some other name descriptive of its dark appearance, it was generally known by people who valued flowers for their ornamental effects only, and it was prized for the contrast it afforded to the prevalent light greens. The specimen in our herbarium from Mount Royal, although dried ten years ago, shows well the colors I have mentioned. So far as I remember, the smaller biternate leaf mentioned in Gray’s Manual was always present.

On coming to Ohio I looked in vain for my black plant, and was disappointed to find that it wears here nothing but dingy greens and yellow. One specimen from the south of the State answers to the description given by Mr. Foerste. The smaller biternate leaf is present, and there is also the third leaf divided once ternately, with only the middle lobe divided ternately again. Besides the terminal panicle of flowers, there is a small panicle in the axil of the third leaf and a larger panicle in the axil of the second.

K. B. CLAYPOLE.

Index to Recent American Botanical Literature.

Acclimatization: Does it occur?—L. H. Bailey, Jr. (Amer. Garden, Sept., Oct., 1887).

The question is discussed at length and examples cited of the wild and cultivated species of the same genus and the differences in altitude and latitude at which they will grow.

Acclimatization in New Zealand.—Geo. M. Thomson. (Science, x, pp. 170, 171).

“English plants chiefly have spread themselves over the country, wherever the settler has gone. It is what Sir Joseph Hooker has called the aggressive Scandinavian flora, which so strongly asserts itself on all sides.”

Algæ aus Cuba, Jamaica und Puerto Rico, Ueber einige.—G. Lagerheim. (Botaniska Notiser, 1887, pp. 193-197).

This comprises a list of Desmids with a few descriptions.

Bacteria.—*Notes on a few forms of.*—Isabel Mulford. (Trans. Vassar Bros. Inst., iv, (1885-1887), pp. 228-241).